

**TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE
ESSEX COUNTY NEW JERSEY**

COUNCIL STAFF MEETING

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 15, 2021

1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR

Mayor Tanella called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and made the required announcement concerning the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Adequate notice of this meeting was duly provided to the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger, filed with the Township Clerk, and posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building's lobby in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Present: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Attorney Nabbi for Township Attorney Giacobbe,
Township Clerk Stutz

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Executive Session – October 4, 2021

Councilman Zichelli moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Skabich, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

b) Staff Meeting – October 18, 2021

Councilman Zichelli moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Skabich, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilwoman Peterson

c) Executive Session – October 18, 2021

Councilman Zichelli moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Skabich, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilwoman Peterson

3. TOWNSHIP MANAGER – The Manager provided an update on desnagging of Peckman River resulting from Storm Ida. Mr. Tucci noted that the anticipated cost of work to be approximately \$110,000. The Manager further commented that the Township should receive

reimbursement from FEMA for the Peckman River clean-up and wall reconstruction on Municipal Building property. The Manager noted correspondence from the South End Fire Company #3 regarding its annual “coin toss” fundraiser on December 5th. The Manager referenced the Finance Director’s recommendation for no adjustment in response to a request for water/sewer bill adjustment (Acct. 3-2607000), to which the governing body agreed. The Manager requested an executive session to discuss contract negotiations with CGARS.

4. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – Attorney Nabbi requested an executive session to discuss contract negotiations regarding Board of Education.
5. **TOWNSHIP CLERK** – The Clerk provided list of expiring terms of Board/Committee members for re-appointment. There was consensus to interview members in executive session 12/6 at 6:00 p.m.

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Peterson inquired status of repair of footpath bridge into Community Park from Little Falls Rd. damaged during storm Ida. Councilwoman Peterson noted achievement of the CGHS boys team as State Sectional champions. There was consensus to recognize the team at the 12/6 meeting. There was discussion of potential recognition of various youth groups achievements.

Councilman Zichelli noted meeting with Municipal Engineer concerning tree and retaining wall issues at Morgan’s Farm.

Councilwoman Skabich provided community garden information from the Township of Verona for consideration. Councilwoman Skabich noted that the Verona project co-ordinator offered to present the program with the governing body at a meeting, to which the governing body agreed.

Deputy Mayor Maceri requested an executive session to discuss potential property acquisition.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Bill Resolution was read by title and amount as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the attached summary of bills having been duly audited and found correct be and they are thereby ordered paid and that warrants be drawn on the Treasurer in the aggregate amount of \$ 6,249,855.14.

Councilman Zichelli moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Scabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Tanella opened this portion of the meeting to any one wishing to be heard.

Keith Kawecki; 18 Westland Rd. – Mr. Kawecki voiced objection to the Mayor and Councilmembers signing endorsement letter of a gubernatorial candidate with their governmental titles, particularly when the Township is a non-partisan municipality. Mr. Kawecki also inquired when distribution of PILOT funds will be made to Board of Education.

There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Tanella closed this portion of the meeting. Mayor Tanella requested an executive session regarding potential litigation.

AUTHORIZATION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings' Act (N.J.S.A.10:4-12 (b) (1-9) permits the exclusion of the public from a Meeting of the Mayor and Council in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove are of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of any action on the Executive Session of the Meeting of the Mayor and Council of November 15, 2021.
2. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is contract negotiation regarding CGARS, contract negotiation regarding Board of Education, and potential property acquisition.
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public as soon thereafter as it is deemed in the public interest to do so.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Councilman Zichelli moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Deputy Mayor Maceri, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. by acclaim.